

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replace all prior version of the claims presented in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of producing antibodies ~~An antibody production method comprising enhancing DNA homologous recombination at an antibody locus when producing antibodies from chicken-derived B cells in which DNA homologous recombination is occurring at the antibody locus,~~ comprising relaxing with a histone deacetylase inhibitor the chromatin structure of chromosomes in chicken-derived B cells in which gene conversion is occurring at the antibody locus to enhance gene conversion in said chicken-derived B cells, and thereby obtaining said a diversity of antibodies.

3. (Withdrawn/Previously Presented) The method described in Claim 2, wherein the relaxation of the chromatin structure of chromosomes is induced by putting the cells into contact with the histone deacetylase inhibitor.

4. (Withdrawn) The method described in Claim 3, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

5. (Withdrawn/Previously Presented) The method described in Claim 4, wherein the concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

6. (Withdrawn/Currently amended) The methods described in Claim [[1]] 2 wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.

7. (Withdrawn/Currently amended) Immunocytes for which somatic homologous recombination has been promoted at a genetic locus by the method described in Claim 2 [[1]].

8. (Withdrawn) Diverse antibodies produced by the method described in Claim 2.

9. (Withdrawn) The antibodies described in Claim 8, wherein the produced antibody is IgM.

10. (Withdrawn) A medicinal agent for the promotion of somatic homologous recombination at a genetic locus, and comprising a histone deacetylase inhibitor.

11. (Withdrawn) The medicinal agent described in Claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method described in Claim 3, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

14. (Previously presented) The method described in Claim 13, wherein the concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

15. (Previously presented) The methods described in Claim 2, wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.

16. (Currently amended) A method for producing an antibody which can bind to a target antigen, comprising:

- i) enhancing ~~DNA-homologous recombination~~ gene conversion at an antibody locus in chicken-derived B cells in which cells ~~DNA-homologous recombination~~ gene conversion is occurring at said antibody locus by relaxing with a histone deacetylase inhibitor the chromatin structure of chromosomes in said chicken-derived B cells, whereby diverse immunocytes are obtained;
- ii) contacting said immunocytes with said target antigen;
- iii) selecting an immunocyte producing an antibody which can bind to said target antigen; and
- iv) culturing said immunocyte.